

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Property Name: Clifton Historical Marker Inventory Number: ~~XXXX~~ CH-944

Address: Crain Highway at Clifton Drive, Charles County - in the vicinity of Newburg

Owner: Clifton/Potomac Association VILTD

Tax Parcel Number: 17 Tax Map Number: 79

Project MD 301 Agency State Highway Administration (SHA)

Site visit by SHA Staff: ☒ no ☐ yes Name: _____ Date: _____

Eligibility recommended ☐ Eligibility **not** recommended ☒

Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☒ None

Is property located within a historic district?: ☒ no ☐ yes Name of District: _____

Is district listed?: ☒ no ☐ yes

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Project Review and Compliance Files

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)

The marker represents the area where the Potomac River was crossed over into Virginia during the Civil War. Two miles north of the marker is the home of Roderick G. Watson, where his daughter, Mary Watson, would send a signal from Clifton to the Confederate agent, Thomas A. Jones. Her signal would notify when it was unsafe for the mail boat to cross from the Virginia side of the Potomac River into Maryland.

Although Civil War operations in Southern Maryland were principally limited to the occupation by Federal Forces of territory for the protection of the nation's capital, the war did have a profound effect on the region's subsequent development. Many residents of southern Maryland enlisted in the Confederate armed forces. Charles County became notorious for its residents' Confederate sympathies and their spying ability.

The marker, erected circa 1940, is not eligible for the National Register because it simply marks where an event occurred. It is not an actual historical resource. Criterion D, information potential, was not assessed for this study.

Prepared by EHT Traceries, Inc.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ☐

Eligibility not recommended ☒

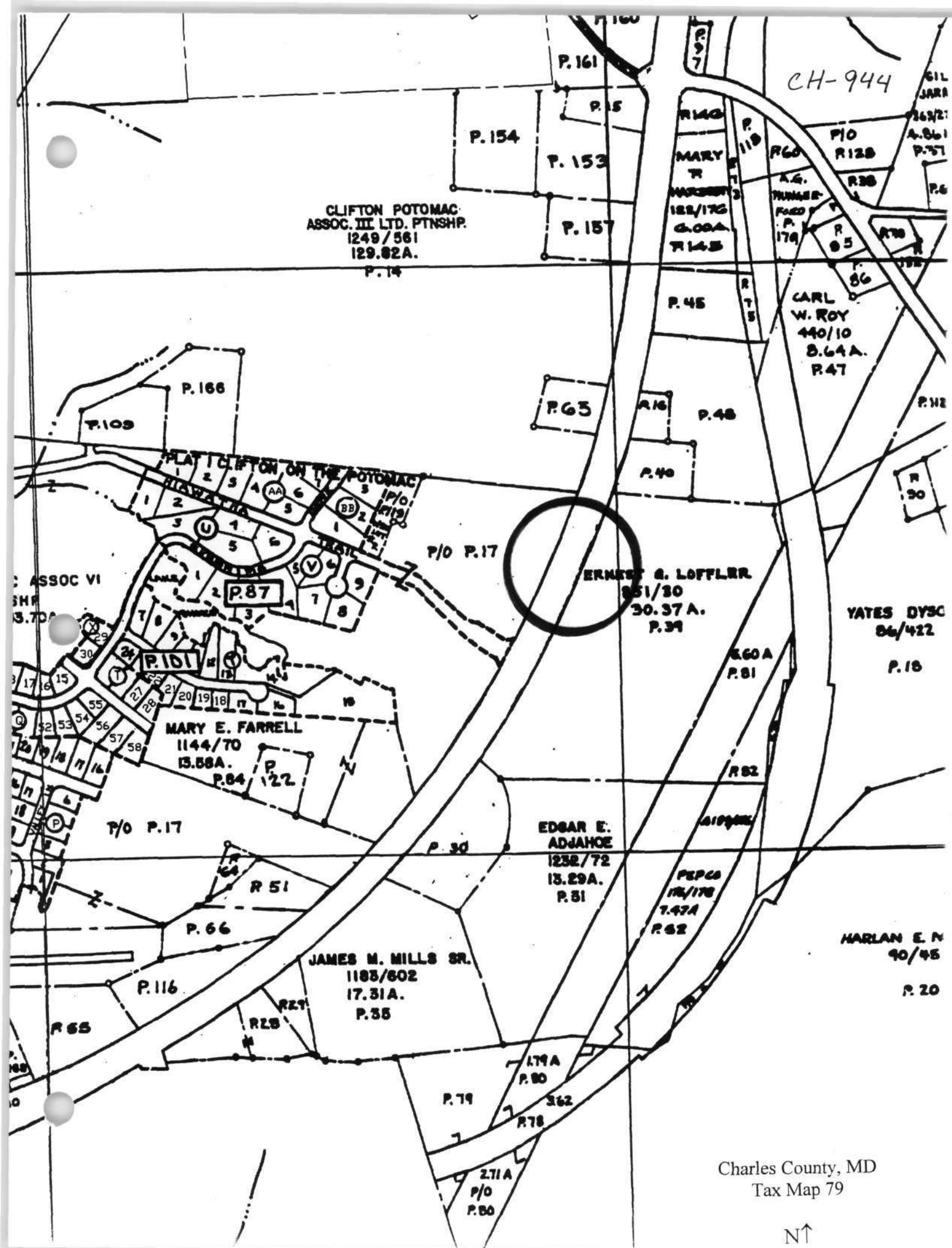
Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Consideration ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☒ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None


Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

10/27/99
Date

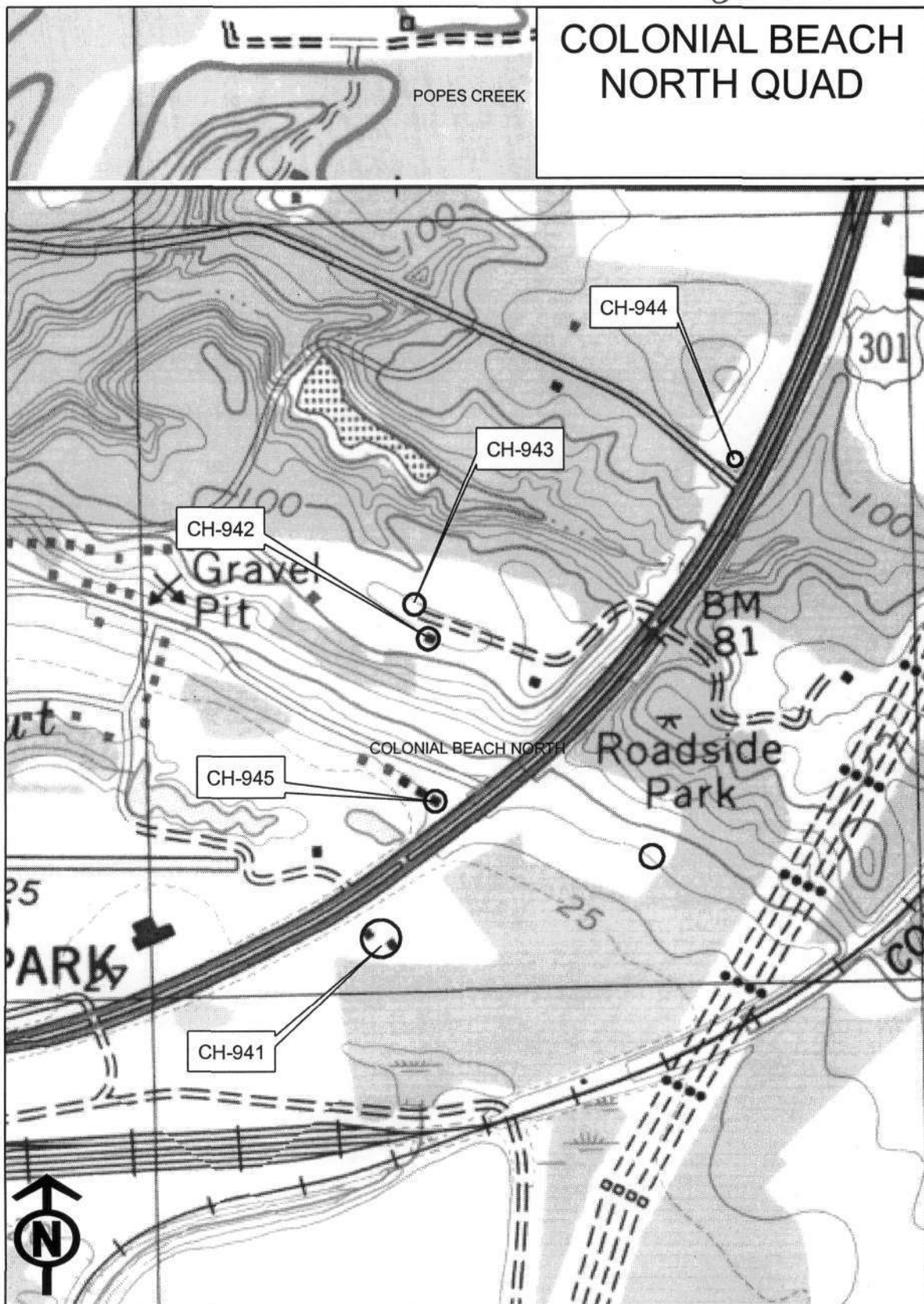
Reviewer, NR Program

Date



CH-944

COLONIAL BEACH NORTH QUAD





CLIFTON

THE HOME OF MAJOR FREDERICK S. WATSON
IS TWO MILES NORTH OF THIS MARKER. AT THE
START OF THE CIVIL WAR MANY PERSONS CROSSED
THE POTOMAC RIVER TO VIRGINIA IN THIS AREA.
FROM 1842 TO THE END OF THE WAR, THOMAS A.
JONES SERVED AS A CONFEDERATE AGENT FOR-
WARDING MAIL FROM THE SOUTH TO THE NORTH
AND CHAS. WARD, DAUGHTER OF MAJOR WATSON,
HUNG A SIGNAL IN A DOORED WINDOW OF CLIFTON
WHEN IT WAS NOT SAFE FOR THE MAIL BOAT TO
CROSS FROM VIRGINIA.

HARLES COUNTY 1918, WAY CENTERVILLE, SPANGLER

~~#0005~~ CH-944

Crain Highway at Clifton Drive
Charles County, MD

Traceries

June 1999

MD SHPO

View looking South

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